

STARTING OFF ON YOUR OWN?



If you're about to move into your first apartment, we've got some tips for you.

1. CREATE A BUDGET.

Before choosing an apartment, figure out all your expenses first (food, utilities, transportation, entertainment). Estimate your monthly expenses and make sure you have money left over for unforeseen expenses.



2. LEARN TO COOK.

Dining at restaurants can quickly empty your checking account. Learn a few recipes and make your own meals as often as possible.



3. TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.

You'll be paying your own utility bills now, so you're going to see why your parents were yelling about turning off lights. Also, if you're paying for heat, turn your thermostat down before leaving for the day.



4. GO EASY ON THE CREDIT.

Use just one credit card and commit to using it only for emergencies. Relying on credit to finance fun can rack up some really scary interest charges.



5. CREATE AN EMERGENCY FUND.

Life is full of surprises. Your car breaks down, a cop catches you speeding, or coffee gets spilled on your laptop. Open a savings account to handle these unexpected expenses.

